



**Official Statement on Workers Compensation  
Workers Compensation Task Force  
Friday, May 9, 2014  
Department of Labor Annex, Wilmington  
Executive Board, Medical Society of Delaware**

At its meeting on May 8, 2014, the Executive Board of the Medical Society of Delaware reviewed the Health Care Advisory Panel (HCAP) Cost Savings Proposal to the Workers Compensation Task Force for presentation to the Task Force meeting on May 9, 2014.

The Executive Board acknowledges the need to reduce costs and reform the current system.

Workers compensation is a complex and multifaceted matter for so many: the injured workers and their families, the physicians who care for them, the hospitals, the employers, the attorneys, the insurance companies, and of course the tax payers, just to name but a few. A system that is so complex deserves reform that is strategic, cost effective and efficient, appropriate to all parties involved, and emphasizes both access to care as well as quality of care. And, of course it must be financially sustainable.

The Executive Board wishes to convey its support for the HCAP proposal, as we recognize that immediate action is needed to reign in workers compensation costs in Delaware. In voicing this support, the Medical Society also wishes to express its concern regarding the overarching inadequacy of the proposal as the sole solution to what ails the workers compensation program in our state. Setting caps on physician and hospital reimbursements represents, at best, a short term remedy, as the underlying systemic issues have not been adequately identified or addressed by the Task Force. We urge the Task Force to take a more measured, comprehensive approach to workers compensation reform to assure the ongoing quality and access to care for our state's injured workers.

We would like to thank Lt. Governor Denn for his leadership, and the entire Task Force for all the hard work and countless hours dedicated to addressing workers compensation reform in the State of Delaware. The Medical Society of Delaware has a strong and positive history of being an active partner in improving the workers comp system. And, moving forward, we remain steadfastly committed to working collaboratively as we seek to further improve the system.

-May 8, 2014-